



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shigeaki Kato et al.

Art Unit : 1646

Serial No. : 09/489,198

Examiner : J. Murphy

Filed : January 20, 2000

Title : GENE SCREENING METHOD USING NUCLEAR RECEPTOR

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Prior to substantive examination, please amend the application as follows.

In the claims

Amend claims 8 to 11 as follows.

8. (Amended) A method for screening a gene encoding a polypeptide that converts a ligand precursor into a ligand, the method comprising

(A) introducing a test gene into a cell comprising (i) a vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a nuclear receptor and (ii) a vector comprising a binding sequence to which the nuclear receptor binds and, located downstream of the binding sequence, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter molecule,

(B) contacting a ligand precursor with the cell into which the test gene is introduced;

(C) evaluating the activity of the reporter molecule, and

(D) isolating the test gene from the cell if the cell shows reporter activity.

9. (Amended) A method for determining whether or not a test gene encodes a polypeptide that converts a ligand precursor into a ligand, the method comprising

(A) introducing a test gene into a cell comprising (i) a vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a nuclear receptor and (ii) a vector comprising a binding sequence to which the nuclear receptor binds and, located downstream of the binding sequence, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a reporter molecule,

(B) contacting a ligand precursor with the cell into which the test gene is introduced, and

(C) evaluating the activity of the reporter molecule.

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